



DISTRICT SEVEN COMMUNITIES

Allied Gardens

Alvarado Estates

Chollas Creek

Colina del Sol

College Area

Del Cerro

El Cerrito

Fox Canyon

Grantville

Islenair

MCAS Miramar

Oak Park

Rancho Encantada

Redwood Village

Rolando Park

Rolando

San Carlos

SDSU

Tierrasanta

The Emerald News

FEBRUARY 2012 • VOLUME 4 ISSUE 2

Homeless Center Breaks Ground

For many years, San Diego has struggled to help people who live on our streets access the services and housing they need to improve their quality of life. Last week, I was honored to attend the groundbreaking for the Connections Housing project downtown. This project is a one-stop shop for homeless people, providing social and health services, 73 permanent supportive housing units, 16 special needs single room units and 134 interim housing beds. This project is the perfect size to serve the needs of our downtown neighborhoods. The opening of this facility downtown helps achieve my goal of making our communities safer and will serve as a model going forward to reduce homelessness throughout San Diego.

Council Supports Urban Agriculture

Last year, Council streamlined the process to create community gardens. This year, we have expanded this "grow your own" initiative into Urban Agriculture. Now, not only can we grow our own food in community gardens, but most people living in single family homes will even be able to keep a few chickens, and miniature goats with reasonable restrictions. There will also be new opportunities for farmers' markets and micro farms. The new urban farming rules grew out of a \$50,000 grant from the County Health and Human Services Agency dedicated to helping people to be able to afford fresh and healthy food. I was proud to support these changes as this effort is consistent with my mission of empowering people to make their quality of life better.

Somalia Youth Walk to Reduce Famine

The Somali Youth League of San Diego is certainly empowered, stepping up to help starving people in East Africa. The City Heights youth group sponsored a Walk to Somalia this past month at Mission Bay. These motivated youth raised \$10,000 and awareness of the devastating famine in Somalia. We're proud of our City Heights youth for making a difference and helping those less fortunate.

Thanks, Marti

Community Representatives



Marisa Berumen

Allied Gardens, Grantville,
and Tierrasanta
(619) 236-7754

mberumen@sandiego.gov



Cynthia Harris

El Cerrito and City Heights
(619) 533-5897

crharris@sandiego.gov



Chris Pearson

Redwood Village, Rolando
Park, Rolando,
and Oak Park
(619) 236-6677

cpearson@sandiego.gov



Tim Taylor

College Area and
Alvarado Estates
(619) 533-4774

taylort@sandiego.gov



Mary Ann Wallace

Del Cerro, Lake Murray, and
San Carlos
(619) 236-7042

mwallace@sandiego.gov

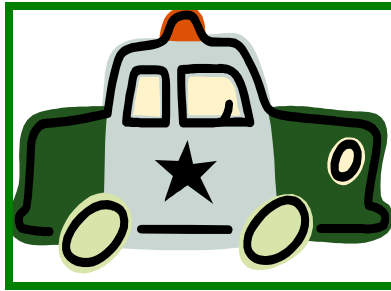
Committee Consultant



Drew Ector

Public Safety &
Neighborhood Services
(619) 236-7038

dector@sandiego.gov



Safety Speaks

Public safety is a core service of the city. If we do nothing else we must keep people safe. Over the past several years, the San Diego Police Department has endured painful budget cuts. These cuts closed down Police Storefronts and forced the city to cut back on important community polic-

ing efforts as well as the number of police officers on the beat. Our police department staffing has shrunk to an officer-to-population ratio that is the second lowest of the ten largest U.S. cities. Despite these drastic cuts, the Police Department should be commended for their efforts, with the City seeing our lowest crime rates in decades.

Similar to the efforts we made last year for Fire-Rescue, my office is joining the San Diego Police Department to design a 5-year plan to restore police service levels, increase the highly successful community-based policing, and focus on department wellness programs. We have already begun assembling a broad working group of city officials, department leaders, and other stakeholders to address these issues. The objective is for a 5-year plan that can be included in the Mayor's 5-year financial outlook and updated annually.

As Chair of the City's Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Committee, I have seen how these cuts whittle away at our quality of life. This is why public safety continues to be my top priority.

Ribbon Cutting for Language Academy Joint-Use Fields



Park Improvements include 1.5 acres of synthetic multipurpose turf field and jogging track. The field is expected to be open to the public in March. This will be a great addition to the College community, which is severely deficient in park space. It will not only expand the community's recreational opportunities, but provide the schoolchildren with much needed safe play surface to replace the previous gravel field.

Last year, I partnered with the school's foundation, The Friends of the Language Academy, to save the project from a threatened plan to defund it. This project is an example of my commitment to expanding our parks, open space and recreational facilities.

Celebrating Community



Tours

< Helen K. Copley YMCA

Advanced
Water Purification Facility >



Honoring Ocean Discovery Institute's Presidential Award



Meet and Greet

< Imagination Club

Latino Youth Council >



Getting the Job Done!

Notification of night construction work along University Avenue "Thank you for the courtesy your office shows for the community. You and your staff have been right in the community you represent and always address the need as soon as it gets to you." **District Seven Business and Property Owner, Abdi Osman.**

Securing final funding to build the Lake Murray Playground Project "Thank you very much for your constant support of the Lake Murray Playground Project. Your leadership has been very much appreciated as the community joined together in less-than-stellar economic times to raise money for our park. It is refreshing to know that there are city leaders that actually represent and support their constituents! Thanks!" **District Seven Resident, Brian Cox (and Family-they will enjoy the park as much as I will!)**

Removal of dead and rotted tree branches "I was checking in with my mom on the phone as usual this morning and all the sudden she said 'OMG Sherry I hear chain saws up on the hill!' So she was absolutely elated that the crew was up there cutting off the dead and rotted branches.... FINALLY after so long of asking for it. YOU are the pivotal factor in all of this and we cannot thank you enough! I will make sure I personally send out my thanks to everyone that emailed and made it happen but especially will be forever grateful to you! PLEASE know how much this means to me to take this dilemma off my sweet mothers mind. Thank you!!!!" **District Seven Resident, Sherry Tobey**

We are here to serve - If you need assistance with something please call the office at (619) 236-6677



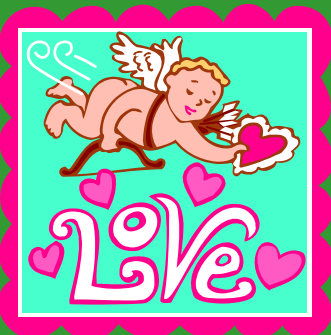
Did you fall in
love at the
SDSU
Love Library?

Share your
story in 500
words or less.

E-mail
submissions
by Feb. 9 to:

love.library.contest
@gmail.com

The winner will
be announced
on
Valentine's Day!



February Community Events

Boy Scout Troop 959 will hold its **19th Annual Pancake Breakfast** at the San Carlos Methodist Church located at **6554 Cowles Mountain Boulevard from 6:30am-11:30 am**. There will also be a Blood Drive and a Craft/Vendor Fair from **7:00 am-1:00 pm**. All events will be taking place on **Saturday, February 4th**.

Watershed Avengers continues to transform our urban canyons into safe and healthy places for youth to learn, play and explore! Join volunteers **Saturday, February 4th from 9:00 am-1:00 pm at Swan Canyon**, City Heights to repair trails, plant native species, and remove non-native, invasive plants and trash from the habitat. Then enjoy a volunteer celebration featuring music, food and a raffle. Volunteers meet at **2807 Fairmont Avenue**.

Join Councilmember Marti Emerald, San Diego School Board Member Kevin Beiser, Principal Veronika Lopez-Mendez, the Friends of Language Academy and students for the **Language Academy Join-Use Field Dedication Ceremony**. The ceremony will take place **Tuesday, February 21st at 2:00 pm**. The Language Academy is located at 4961 64th Street.

Free 2012 Income Tax Preparation at two District 7 branch libraries
-College/Rolando Branch located at **6600 Montezuma Road**—Beginning February 4th through April 17th. Tuesdays/Wednesdays from 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm and Thursdays from 9:30 am— 4:40 pm. This is a walk in service provided by AARP for all clientele.

-Tierrasanta Branch located at **4985 La Cuenta Drive**— Beginning February 10th through April 13th on Fridays from 10:00 am— 4:00 pm by appointment only for Low Income Seniors. There won't be services provided on March 2nd and 30th and April 6th. Please make an appointment by calling the library at (858) 573-1384.

The Public Utilities' Water Conservation Program, is running the **San Diego California-Friendly Landscape Contest of 2012**. This contest is designed to promote the use of water-conserving plants and technologies throughout the San Diego area. The competition spotlights beautiful examples of drought-tolerant landscapes while raising general public awareness of the need to save water. For more information, including eligibility requirements and application procedures, visit the contest website: www.landscapecontest.com. Deadline is April 6, 2012.

Knitting circles are held on **Saturdays at the Allied Gardens/ Benjamin Branch library** from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. All levels, ages 14 and up, are welcome. Beginners, please bring knitting needles in size 7, 8 or 9, and worsted weight yarn. Experienced knitters please bring any project you are currently working on or wish to start. The library is located at 5188 Zion Avenue.